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Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

TIMSS 2007



Student Questionnaire

Grade 8

National Center for Education Statistics

Institute of Education Sciences
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-5650

General Directions

In this questionnaire, you will find questions about yourself. Some questions ask for facts while other questions ask for your opinions.

Read each question carefully and answer as accurately as possible. You may ask for help if you do not understand something or are not sure how to respond.

Each question is followed by a number of answers. Fill in the oval next to the answer of your choice as shown in Examples 1, 2, and 3.

Example 1

Do you go to school?

Fill in **one** oval only

Yes -----

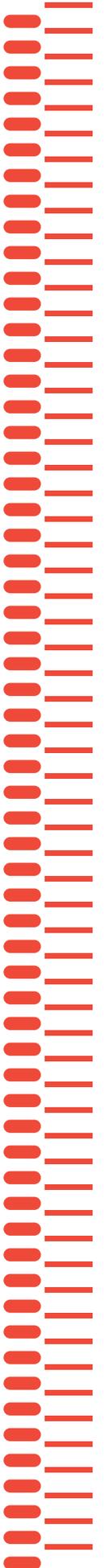
No -----

Example 2

How often do you do these things?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

| | Every day | At least once a week | Once or twice a month | A few times a year | Never |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a) I listen to music ----- | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| b) I talk with my friends ----- | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| c) I play sports ----- | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |



Example 3

How much do you agree with each of these statements?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

| | Agree a lot ↓ | Agree a little ↓ | Disagree a little ↓ | Disagree a lot ↓ |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) Watching movies is fun ----- | <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 |
| b) I like eating ice cream ----- | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 |

Read each question carefully, and pick the answer you think is best. Fill in the oval next to or below your answer. If you decide to change an answer to a question, completely erase your first choice, and then fill in the oval for your new choice. Ask for help if you do not understand something or are not sure how to answer.

Thank you for your time, effort, and thought in completing this questionnaire.

About You

1

When were you born?

A. Fill in the oval next to the year you were born

- Year**
- 1989 - (A)
1990 - (B)
1991 - (C)
1992 - (D)
1993 - (E)
1994 - (F)
1995 - (G)
1996 - (H)
Other - (I)

B. Fill in the oval next to the month you were born

- Month**
- January - (A)
February - (B)
March - (C)
April - (D)
May - (E)
June - (F)
July - (G)
August - (H)
September - (I)
October - (J)
November - (K)
December - (L)



2

A. Are you a girl or a boy?

*Fill in **one** oval only*

Girl-----①

Boy-----②

B. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

*Fill in **one** oval only*

Yes, I am Hispanic or Latino. -----①

No, I am not Hispanic or Latino. -----②

C. Which of the following best describes you?

*Fill in **one or more** ovals*

White -----①

Black or African American -----②

Asian -----③

American Indian or Alaska Native -----④

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander ---⑤

About You (Continued)

3

A. How often do you speak English at home?

Fill in **one** oval only

Always ----- ①

If **Always**, please go to question 4

Almost always ----- ②

Sometimes ----- ③

Never ----- ④

If **Almost always, Sometimes, Never**, please go to question 3B



B. What language do you speak at home (other than English)?

Fill in **one** oval only

Spanish ----- ①

Other ----- ②

(Please specify) _____

4

About how many books are there in your home? (Do not count magazines, newspapers, or your school books.)

Fill in **one** oval only

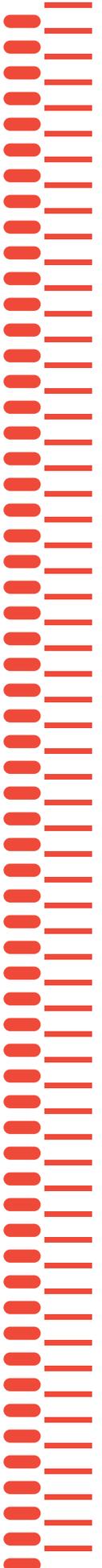
None or very few
(0-10 books) ----- ①

Enough to fill one shelf
(11-25 books) ----- ②

Enough to fill one bookcase
(26-100 books) ----- ③

Enough to fill two bookcases
(101-200 books) ----- ④

Enough to fill three or more bookcases
(more than 200 books) ----- ⑤



5

Do you have any of these things at your home?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

- | | Yes
↓ | No
↓ |
|--|----------|---------|
| a) Calculator ----- | ① | ② |
| b) Computer (do not include PlayStation®, GameCube®, Xbox®, or other TV/video game systems)----- | ① | ② |
| c) Study desk/table for your use ----- | ① | ② |
| d) Dictionary ----- | ① | ② |
| e) Internet connection ----- | ① | ② |
| f) Encyclopedia (as a book or CD) ----- | ① | ② |
| g) PlayStation®, GameCube®, Xbox®, or other TV/video game systems ----- | ① | ② |
| h) VCR or DVD player ----- | ① | ② |
| i) Three or more cars, small trucks, or sport utility vehicles ----- | ① | ② |

About You (Continued)

6

A. What is the highest level of education completed by your mother (or stepmother or female guardian)?

Fill in **one** oval only

- Some elementary or junior high/middle school or did not go to school ----- ①
- Completed junior high/middle school ----- ②
- Some high school ----- ③
- Completed high school ----- ④
- Completed a vocational/technical certificate after high school ----- ⑤
- Completed an Associate's degree (AA) in a vocational/technical program ----- ⑥
- Completed a 2-year or 4-year college or university degree (i.e., Associate's or Bachelor's degree) ----- ⑦
- Completed a Master's degree, teaching certificate program, or professional degree (e.g., law, medicine, dentistry) or higher ----- ⑧
- I don't know ----- ⑨

B. What is the highest level of education completed by your father (or stepfather or male guardian)?

Fill in **one** oval only

- Some elementary or junior high/middle school or did not go to school ----- ①
- Completed junior high/middle school ----- ②
- Some high school ----- ③
- Completed high school ----- ④
- Completed a vocational/technical certificate after high school ----- ⑤
- Completed an Associate's degree (AA) in a vocational/technical program ----- ⑥
- Completed a 2-year or 4-year college or university degree (i.e., Associate's or Bachelor's degree) ----- ⑦
- Completed a Master's degree, teaching certificate program, or professional degree (e.g., law, medicine, dentistry) or higher ----- ⑧
- I don't know ----- ⑨



7

How far in school do you expect to go?

Fill in **one** oval only

Finish high school ----- ①

Finish vocational/technical education
after high school ----- ②

Finish community or junior college----- ③

Complete a bachelor's degree at a
college or university----- ④

Beyond a bachelor's degree ----- ⑤

I don't know ----- ⑥

8

Have you ever repeated a grade?

Fill in only **one** oval for each line

No Yes
↓ ↓

a) In elementary school ----- ① ②

b) In middle or junior high school----- ① ②

Mathematics in School

9

How much do you agree with these statements about learning mathematics?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

- | | Agree
a lot
↓ | Agree
a little
↓ | Disagree
a little
↓ | Disagree
a lot
↓ |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| a) I usually do well in mathematics ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) I would like to take more mathematics in school ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) Mathematics is more difficult for me than for many of my classmates ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) I enjoy learning mathematics ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| e) Mathematics is not one of my strengths ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| f) I learn things quickly in mathematics -- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| g) Mathematics is boring ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| h) I like mathematics ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |



10

How much do you agree with these statements about mathematics?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

- | | Agree
a lot
↓ | Agree
a little
↓ | Disagree
a little
↓ | Disagree
a lot
↓ |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| a) I think learning mathematics will help me in my daily life ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) I need mathematics to learn other school subjects ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) I need to do well in mathematics to get into the university or college of my choice ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) I need to do well in mathematics to get the job I want ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |

Mathematics in School (Continued)

11

How often do you do these things in your mathematics lessons?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

| | Every or almost every lesson | About half the lessons | Some lessons | Never |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) We practice adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing without using a calculator ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) We work on fractions and decimals ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) We solve problems about geometric shapes, lines and angles ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) We interpret data in tables, charts, or graphs ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| e) We write equations and functions to represent relationships ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| f) We memorize formulas and procedures ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| g) We explain our answers ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| h) We relate what we are learning in mathematics to our daily lives ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| i) We decide on our own procedures for solving complex problems ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| j) We review our homework ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| k) We listen to the teacher give a lecture-style presentation ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| l) We work problems on our own ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| m) We work together in small groups ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| n) We begin our homework in class ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| o) We have a quiz or test ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| p) We use calculators ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| q) We use computers ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |



Science in School

12

How much do you agree with these statements about learning science?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

| | Agree a lot ↓ | Agree a little ↓ | Disagree a little ↓ | Disagree a lot ↓ |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| a) I usually do well in science ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) I would like to take more science in school----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) Science is more difficult for me than for many of my classmates----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) I enjoy learning science ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| e) Science is not one of my strengths----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| f) I learn things quickly in science ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| g) Science is boring----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| h) I like science----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |

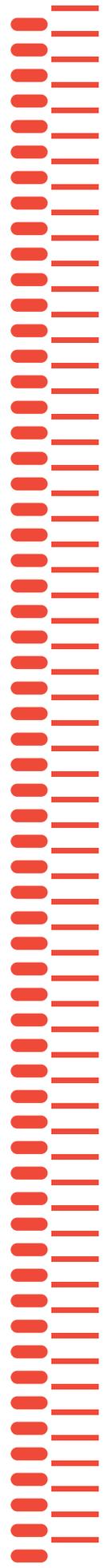
Science in School (Continued)

13

How much do you agree with these statements about science?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

| | Agree a lot ↓ | Agree a little ↓ | Disagree a little ↓ | Disagree a lot ↓ |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| a) I think learning science will help me in my daily life ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) I need science to learn other school subjects ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) I need to do well in science to get into the university or college of my choice ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) I need to do well in science to get the job I want ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |



How often do you do these things in your science lessons?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

| | Every or almost every lesson ↓ | About half the lessons ↓ | Some lessons ↓ | Never ↓ |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| a) We make observations and describe what we see ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) We watch the teacher demonstrate an experiment or investigation----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) We design or plan an experiment or investigation ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| d) We conduct an experiment or investigation----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| e) We work in small groups on an experiment or investigation----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| f) We read our science textbooks and other resource materials ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| g) We memorize science facts and principles ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| h) We use scientific formulas and laws to solve problems ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| i) We give explanations about what we are studying ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| j) We relate what we are learning in science to our daily lives ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| k) We review our homework ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| l) We listen to the teacher give a lecture-style presentation ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| m) We work problems on our own ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| n) We begin our homework in class ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| o) We have a quiz or test----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| p) We use computers ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |

Computers

15

A. Do you ever use a computer? (Do not include PlayStation®, GameCube®, Xbox®, or other TV/video game systems.)

Yes No
↓ ↓

Fill in **one** oval only ----- ① ②

If **No**, please go to question 16 

B. Where do you use a computer?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

Yes No
↓ ↓

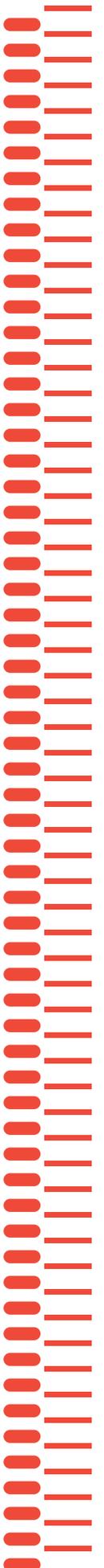
- a) At home ----- ① ②
- b) At school ----- ① ②
- c) Elsewhere (e.g., public library, friend's home, Internet café) ----- ① ②

C. How often do you use a computer for your schoolwork (in and out of school)?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

Every day At least once a week Once or twice a month A few times a year Never
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

- a) In mathematics ----- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
- b) In science ----- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤



Your School

16

How much do you agree with these statements about your school?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

- | | Agree
a lot
↓ | Agree
a little
↓ | Disagree
a little
↓ | Disagree
a lot
↓ |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| a) I like being in school ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| b) I think that most students in my school try to do their best ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |
| c) I think that most teachers in my school want students to do their best----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ |

Things You Do Outside of School

17

On a normal school day, how much time do you spend before or after school doing each of these things?

Fill in **one** oval for each line

| | No time | Less than 1 hour | 1-2 hours | More than 2 but less than 4 hours | 4 or more hours |
|--|------------|------------------------|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| a) I watch television and videos ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| b) I play computer games ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| c) I play or talk with friends ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| d) I do jobs or chores at home ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| e) I work at a paid job ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| f) I play sports ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| g) I read a book for enjoyment ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| h) I use the Internet ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |
| i) I do homework ----- | ① | ② | ③ | ④ | ⑤ |



Homework

18

A. How often does your teacher give you homework in mathematics?

Fill in **one** oval only

Every day----- ①

3 or 4 times a week ----- ②

1 or 2 times a week ----- ③

Less than once a week----- ④

Never----- ⑤

If **Never**, please go to question 19



B. When your teacher gives you mathematics homework, about how long does it take you to complete this homework?

Fill in **one** oval only

Zero minutes ----- ①

1 - 15 minutes ----- ②

16-30 minutes ----- ③

31-60 minutes----- ④

61-90 minutes----- ⑤

More than 90 minutes ----- ⑥

Homework (Continued)

19

A. How often does your teacher give you homework in science?

Fill in **one** oval only

Every day ----- ①

3 or 4 times a week ----- ②

1 or 2 times a week ----- ③

Less than once a week ----- ④

Never ----- ⑤

If **Never**, please go to question 20



B. When your teacher gives you science homework, about how long does it take you to complete this homework?

Fill in **one** oval only

Zero minutes ----- ①

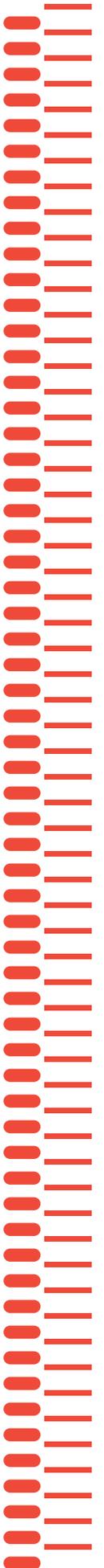
1 - 15 minutes ----- ②

16-30 minutes ----- ③

31-60 minutes ----- ④

61-90 minutes ----- ⑤

More than 90 minutes ----- ⑥



More About You

20

A. Was your mother (or stepmother or female guardian) born in the United States*?

Yes No
↓ ↓

Fill in **one** oval only ----- ① ②

B. Was your father (or stepfather or male guardian) born in the United States*?

Yes No
↓ ↓

Fill in **one** oval only ----- ① ②

21

A. Were you born in the United States*?

Yes No
↓ ↓

Fill in **one** oval only ----- ① ②

If **Yes**, you have completed the questionnaire 

B. If you were not born in the United States*, how old were you when you came to the United States*?

Fill in **one** oval only

Older than 10 years old ----- ①

5 to 10 years old ----- ②

Younger than 5 years old ----- ③

* “United States” includes the 50 states, its territories, the District of Columbia, and U.S. military bases abroad.

Thank You
for completing
this questionnaire



